

PRESS NOTICES

Impressive start to

young artists concerts

THE Maisie Lewis Young Artists Fund has been established to enable the Worshipful Company of Musicians to sponsor a series of concerts for promising new performers, and last night we heard the very impressive inaugural programme at the Purcell Room.

It was given by the Chilingirian String Quartet, who showed an expressive range, a power of concentration and stylistic scope, throughout a taxing evening, which augered well for the future.

They opened with the splendid Elgar Quartet, where, apart from a few slips of intonation, they showed a deep sympathy with the compound of nervous energy and melancholic withdrawal at the work's heart. The colouristic treatment of the second movement interludes was beautifully achieved and ineffably sad in effect.

After Mozart's "Dissonance Quartet," a firm stylish reading, Bartok's Sixth Quartet was given with intense commitment, its sonorous demands resourcefully met, its touchingly personal vision lovingly shaped. A. R. R.

Musicians sponsor young performers

After reporting last week the work of the Painter Stainers in encouraging young artists, it is pleasant to note that the Musicians Company has followed suit, and is currently sponsoring young performers.

For the first time in living memory — probably since the seventeenth century — the Musicians Company has actually done something for music. Mr. Ted Lewis, Chairman of Decca was present for the first Young Artists concert, held last Tuesday, and sponsored by the Maisie Lewis Fund, which was set up in memory of Ted Lewis's widow.

It is an occasion which is going to be repeated on October 12th in the Purcell Room at the Festival Hall. The way in which the company, previously a very pleasant dining club for music lovers, has suddenly come to life and started to play a part in the music boom which has made Britain the music centre of the world is the really exciting de-

velopment. It characterises the way in which livery companies are coming to life and finding that there is something more to their role than tradition, charity and social functions.

These concerts do a lot to put things right. There are sadly, very few opportunities for the young musician to gain the necessary confidence playing in front of an audience. The Maisie Lewis Young Artists Fund was started to rectify this and the sponsored concerts are presented in association with the Musicians Company.

The first concert was given in the Purcell Room by the Chilingirian String Quartet in a carefully planned programme which amply demonstrated their style and enthusiasm for chamber music of all periods, from Mozart, represented by a well pointed reading of his K.465 Quartet (The Dissonance) through Elgar's E minor Quartet to Bartok's Quartet No. 6.

PETER FULLER

DAILY TELEGRAPH.
3RD JUNE 1970

CITY PRESS 4TH JUNE 1970